Reviewer's report

Title: Cost analysis of erlotinib versus chemotherapy for first-line treatment of non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) in fit elderly patients participating in a prospective phase 2 study (GFPC 0504)

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Reviewer: Yi-Long Wu

Reviewer's report:

The authors reported a cost-effectiveness analysis of a phase 2 trial GFPC0504 and concluded that erlotinib followed by chemotherapy compares well with the reverse strategy in fit elderly patients with NSCLC. In general cost effectiveness analysis is very important for treatment of advanced NSCLC. The conclusion from this analysis sounds rational.

Major concerns:

1. In introduction session (P6) authors described that there is no consensus on the management of elderly NSCLC patients. Actually ASCO consensus on chemotherapy for elderly patients published on 2009. They recommended that recommendation A4, the evidence does not support the selection of a specific first-line chemotherapy drug or combination based on age alone. because age is not a significant prognostic factor for patients with stage IV NSCLC and has never been shown to predict benefit from chemotherapy. Authors need to clean these in this session.

2. In methods session and results session cost-utility analysis was calculated. but the conclusion only focuses on cost-effectiveness. Corresponding describing is needed between these two sessions.

3. In most clinical trials with PFS as primary endpoint, cases with post treatment were always not balanced. Please add item for cases with post treatment in table 2.

Minor concern:

1. Page 6 advanced NSCL is not standard.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests for this manuscript.